

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0616

EXDIS

FOR USOAS AMBASSADOR MC GEE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS, SHUM, UY
SUBJ: INTEREST IN POSSIBLE CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS WITH IAHR

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH BRIG. JORGE BORAD LAST EVENING, HE REVIEWED THE EXPERIENCES OF HIS DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON. HE HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR YOU, TRAGEN AND MC NEIL. HE GENERALLY CAME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE USG HAD PLAYED VERY HELPFUL ADVISORY AND INTERMEDIARY ROLES. DESPITE THESE POSITIVE FACTORS, OUR "NO" VOTE ON THE GOU OFFER TO HOST THE VIII OASGA WAS REGARDED GENERALLY THROUGHOUT THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT AS THE LATEST ACT OF USG HOSTILITY TOWARD URUGUAY. THIS REACTION PERHAPS WAS INEVITABLE AND HAS UNQUESTIONABLY BEEN FED BY THE RIGHT WING CONFRONTATIONAL FORCES IN AND OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

2. BORAD IS MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN MOST ON THE ISSUE AND HAS REPORTED TO THE HIGH OFFICIALS HERE THE POSITIVE ROLE THE USG PLAYED BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON TO HELP THEM OUT OF THEIR OWN SELF-IMPOSED DILEMMA. HE NOW IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MAY OASGA BECAUSE OF FURTHER NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES WHICH MAY SURROUND IT.
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PAGE 02 MONTEV 00616 231819Z

FIRST, THERE IS A BODY OF EXTREMISTS OPERATING WITHIN THE GOU WHICH ADVOCATES BOYCOTTING THE SESSION OR AT THE FAR EXTREME EVEN PULLING OUT OF THE OAS COMPLETELY. THE LATTER VIEW IS HELD BY A LUNATIC FRINGE AND HAS LITTLE SUPPORT. BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE GOU BOYCOTTING THE SESSION IS A REAL ONE.

3. SECOND, BORAD FEARS THAT THE URUGUAY ISSUE AND THE IAHRC REPORT MAY BE THE CENTERPIECE OF THE VIII OASGA. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS OF THE OPINION THAT OUR DELEGATION AND MANY OF THE OTHER MEMBER STATES WANTED VERY MUCH TO HAVE THIS OASGA CONCENTRATE ON OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH UNFORTUNATELY HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE ATTENTION THEY MERIT BECAUSE OF THE CONCENTRATION AT THE GRENADA MEETING ALMOST SOLELY ON HUMAN RIGHTS. I PROMISED TO CHECK FURTHER WITH YOU AND GIVE HIM A MORE ACCURATE PICTURE.

4. BORAD THEN GOT TO THE CENTRAL POINT NAMELY HIS DESIRE TO PREVENT A FURTHER RIFT BETWEEN URUGUAY AND THE OAS BY CONTINUING THE NEGOTIATION WITH THE IAHRC. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE US TO CONTINUE OUR GOOD-OFFICES ROLE. I SAID I WOULD ABLE YOU IMMEDIATELY AND CONFER WITH YOU FURTHER IN WASHINGTON DURING THE CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE. I TOLD HIM I BELIEVED THE IAHRC WAS VERY CLOSE TO PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES TO ITS REPORT ON URUGUAY, AND ASKED IF HE HAD ANY INDEPENDENT INFORMATION ON THAT SCORE. HE SAID HE DID NOT.

5. BORAD MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT WANT AMBASSADOR ROCA INFORMED OF THIS INITIATIVE ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO RESERVATION ABOUT OUR DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS.

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PAGE 03 MONTEV 00616 231819Z

6. BORAD'S POSITION IN THE NEW MILITARY STRUCTURE HAS IMPROVED. HE IS A CLOSE CONFIDANT AND SUPPORTER OF THE TWO NEW CINCS, ARMY GENERAL ALVAREZ AND AIR FORCE GENERAL BENDAHAN. I THINK WE MUST VIEW THIS AS A MILITARY INITIATIVE--ONE WE SHOULD KEEP FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. ONE NOTE OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO YOU IS THAT IT IS NOW KNOWN WITHIN THE MILITARY THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA WAS THE CULPRIT IN THE GARBLED MESSAGE CAPER OF JANUARY 26. ROVIRA CHANGED THE ORDER HE RECEIVED FROM THE MILITARY POLITICAL COMMISSION TO INSTRUCT ROCA TO SEEK A POSTPONEMENT OF THE VOTE TO ONE OF SUPPORTING A POSTPONEMENT. PEZZULLO

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